A.N.C.
FICTION HOUSE
52 Pages
MAGAZINES
PLANET
No. 61
JULY
10c
WHAT NEXT WHEN THE EARTH IS DOOMED?
LOST WORLD
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A FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINE

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NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 62, SEPT.) ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND JULY 10th.

World

by THOMAS LINN HOWARD

"To conquer a planet, devastate its cities and annihilate the mass of people. Then capture and publicly execute any upstart leader daring to organize the survivors." So read the VOLTA DOCTRINE. And these wise words proved infallible until the invasion of earth. Then, somehow, it just didn't work.... For never before had they met anyone endowed with the love of freedom as HUNT BOWMAN and LYSSA, who were continually fighting and watching their every movement....

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THEM, LYSSA, WHILE I ADJUST THIS EYE-PIECE.

THEY'RE LANDING NOW ABOUT TWO MILES SOUTH OF HERE.

THERE ARE SEVEN SHIPS IN THE FLEET. HURRY AND SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

WHATEVER THEY'RE UP TO MEANS TROUBLE FOR US ALL...OF THAT I'M CERTAIN!

I CAN SEE THEM NOW. THEY'RE LIFTING HUGE CRATES OUT OF THE SHIPS' HOLDS WITH A DERRICK. BUT I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THEM.

NOR CAN HUNT BOWMAN HEAR THE OMINOUS COMMANDS THAT ECHO THE FIELD...

CAREFUL, NOW. THAT CAGE DIRECTLY OVER THE EXCAVATION SET. THOSE CREATURES THE GUIDES OF THE MUMMY-MEN ARE.

FIERCE CREATURES THEY ARE. BUT ON PLANETOID R, THE BLIND MUMMY-MEN USE THEM AS GUIDES AND HUNTERS. WE USEFUL TO CATCH THE EARTHPEOPLE FIND THEM WILL.

BOTTOM OF CAGE OPEN SO THEY INTO UNDER-GROUND TUNNELS GO WILL, THEN THE CAPSULES LOWER.

AH. THEY IN EXCELLENT PRESERVATION STATE LOOK. SOON IF THEY ALIVE ARE, WE LEARN WILL. STAND BY ELECTRODES TO CONNECT.

IT DONE IS. I THE POWER NOW ON TURN. SEE HOW THE JELLY SURROUNDING THEM MELTS.

SUCCESS! THEY UNFOLD AND EMERGE. QUICK NOW, INTO THE TUNNELS WITH THEIR HAIRY CREATURES THEM PUT. BUT THE KING HERE KEEP. I TO HEADQUARTERS HIM SEND WILL.

AS..

STRANGE CREATURES BEING LOADED, LYSSA. WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE EARTHPEOPLE AND WARN THEM.

YES, AND LET'S HURRY. THIS WAY!

MEANWHILE, AT A CLEARING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...

ALL PROVISIONS AND EQUIPMENT PACKED AND LOADED. AS SOON AS WE GET THESE TENTS DOWN, WE'LL START.

AND NOW THEY'RE STOWED AWAY. GET GOING, LIL. WE'LL LEAD THE PROCESSION.

THAT SUITS ME FINE. ANY PLACE WOULD BE PARADISE COMPARED TO HERE.

WAIT... SOMEONE'S COMING. WHY, IT'S HUNT BOWMAN AND LYSSA.

YES... I'VE COME TO WARN YOU THAT THE VOLTAMEN ARE PREPARING SOME NEW AND HORRIBLE WAY TO EXTERMINATE US!

BUT WE'RE LEAVING HERE, HUNT.

WAIT, YOU CAN'T! YOU'VE GOT TO STAY AND FIGHT ON.

NO, HUNT. WE'VE SPENT OUR LIVES BEING HARASSED BY THE VOLTAMEN.

YES... AND NOW WE HOPE TO FIND SOME PLACE WHERE WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT CONTINUALLY BEING HUNTED. MY CHILDREN DESERVE A REAL HOME AND SAFETY.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, HUNT, WE'RE DETERMINED TO FIND SOME PLACE ON EARTH WHERE WE CAN LIVE FREE FROM FEAR.

LOOK!... LOOK THERE! STRANGE MONSTERS ARE COMING OUT OF THE EARTH!

THEY'RE THE THINGS I SAW BEING UNLOADED FROM THE VOLTAN SHIPS. GET WEAPONS... WE'LL FIGHT!

THEY ACT AS THOUGH THEY WERE BEING DIRECTED BY SOME UNSEEN FORCE!

KEEP BACK, LYSSA. THEY'RE GANGING UP AND PREPARING TO CHARGE!

THAT HORSE IS GOING TO STAMPEDE. IT'LL KILL THE OLD MAN. I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!

QUICK...I'VE GOT HIM. CRAWL OUT FROM UNDER HIS HOOVES!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL STOP HIM. WHOA, WHOA!

BUT HE WON'T OBEY, THOSE CREATURES HAVE TERRIFIED IT!

DON'T LET IT RUN AWAY. ALL MY POSSESSIONS ARE ON THAT DRAG!

GOOD...THE GROUND IS SOFT HERE AND THE HORSE IS SINKING INTO IT. I'LL HAVE HIM QUIETED IN A MOMENT— WHAT!

A TRAP! MORE STRANGE MONSTERS CLIMBING OUT OF THE MUCK. HELP, HUNT, HELP!

ONE OF THEM HAS ME, HUNT! IT'S PULLING ME INTO THE HOLE. HELP!

I'M COMING, LYSSA... I'LL TEACH THESE DEVILS A LESSON!

QUICK, LYSSA, THEY'RE COMING TO HELP THIS RASCAL... PULL FREE!

YES, HE'S LOOSENED HIS GRIP. I'LL MAKE IT!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FAST, HUNT! LOOK THERE AHEAD... THE HAIRY ONES HAVE GONE.

YES, OUR EARTHPEOPLE MUST HAVE DRIVEN THEM OFF. WE'LL JOIN THEM.

NOW, HUNT, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?

YES, I UNDERSTAND, MY FRIENDS.

THIS NEW MENACE IS DIABOLICAL. THERE'S EVIDENTLY SOME TIE BETWEEN THOSE BLIND ONES AND THE HAIRY DEVILS.

AND IT'S ANOTHER VOLTA SCHEME TO ANNIHILATE US.

YES... SO THOSE OF YOU WITH FAMILIES SHOULD GO! BUT I CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AMONG THE SINGLE MEN TO STAY AND HELP ME FIGHT.

SO WILL I!

I'LL STAY, HUNT!

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

MEANWHILE, HAVING RELEASED THE BLIND MUMMY-MEN AND THEIR HAIRY GUIDES TO ATTACK AND HARASS THE EARTHPEOPLE, THE VOLTAMEN WERE SUDDENLY ALERTED... THE CRAFT CARRYING THE KING OF THESE STRANGE BEASTS HAD FAILED TO REACH VOLTA HEADQUARTERS, AND SO...

EVERY INCH OF TERRITORY CAREFULLY SCAN. HE WE MUST FIND!

YES. THIS IS THE ROUTE OVER WHICH HE BROUGHT WAS. IMPORTANT HE THIS PROJECT TO SUCCEED IS?

YES...IF HIS FOLLOWERS LEARN THAT WE NO LONGER HIM AS HOSTAGE HOLD, REFUSE TO ATTACK EARTH-PEOPLE THEY WILL. LOOK!

EARTHPEOPLE! REVERSE SHIP AND OUT OF THEIR SIGHT STAY!

YES... WE IN VIDEO THEM WATCH WILL. AH... OUR LOST SHIP! IT THEY FOUND HAVE!

AS BELOW...

A WRECK OF A VOLTA SHIP. BUT BE CAREFUL, IT MAY BE AN AMBUSH!

NOT THIS TIME, HUNT... IT'S REALLY CRACKED UP BADLY, COME ON!

YOU WERE RIGHT. I CAN SEE TWO VOLTAMEN STRETCHED OUT IN FRONT OF IT!

AND LOOK AT THAT CAPSULE, HUNT!

IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS WE SAW THE VOLTANS UNLOADING AT THEIR BASE.

YES...IT'S LIKE A GIANT TRANSPARENT COCOON...LOOK AT THE CREATURE INSIDE...

AND HERE'S A STRANGE MACHINE ATTACHED IN THE COCKPIT. WHAT IS IT?

WHY, THAT'S A RECORDER! IT'LL SHOW SOUND PICTURES OF WHAT HAPPENED IN ALL THE PLACES THE CRAFT HAS BEEN.

YES, AND I CAN OPERATE IT!

SO SECONDS LATER, THE LITTLE PARTY IS WATCHING AND LISTENING TO THE RECORD OF THE CRAFT'S PREVIOUS FLIGHT...

ATTENTION, SQUADRON! PLANETOID R BELOW US IS. WE ON IT NOW LAND.

AH, THE BLIND MUMMY-MEN'S SENSITIVE EARS OUR SHIPS HEARD HAVE. TO WELCOME US THEY COME.

THE KING APPROACHES... OUR TRAP PREPARE. HE TALKS.

WELCOME, STRANGERS TO OUR PLANET.

I AM ZOG, KING OF THE MUMMY PEOPLE. WHO ARE YOU AND FROM WHERE DO YOU COME?

WE VOLTA MEN ARE.

NOW I THE SIGNAL GIVE.

AND THE MAGNETIC NET TRUE SWINGS! THEY OURS ARE! PLACE THEM IN OUR JELLY CAPSULES SO THEY THE TRIP SURVIVE WILL.

AND WE TO EARTH THEM TAKE, WHERE THEY BURROW AND ALL EARTHPEOPLE DESTROY WILL.

AH... THE JELLY HOLDS THEM FIRM. ON THE SPACER NOW THEM LOAD WHILE WE SOME OF THEIR HAIRY GUIDES CAPTURE WILL.

THE FILM ENDS, AND NOW AT LEAST WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE STRANGE BLIND CREATURES WERE KIDNAPPED WITH THOSE HAIRY ONES FROM THEIR HOMES. AND WE HAVE FOUND THEIR KING!

THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE TO EXTERMINATE US... LOOK! A VOLTA SHIP!

EARTHPEOPLE US SEE! FULL SPEED AHEAD GO!

HEAT RAY RELEASE. CAPTURE THEM WE WILL!

RUN, EVERYBODY! DON'T LET THAT RAY TOUCH YOU!

QUICK, GET TO COVER. THEY'RE PREPARING TO LAND!

WE'LL MAKE OUR STAND HERE. LOOK HOW THAT RAY SEARS THE EARTH.

YES...NOW IT'S TOUCHING THE CAPSULE!

AND AS THE WHITE-HOT RAYS SWEEP OVER THE JELLY-BALL, IT MELTS...

AND SECONDS LATER, ZOG, KING OF THE MUMMY-MEN IS FREE... HE STIRS...

...THEN RISES...

AH, I HEAR THE ROCKETS OF THOSE WHO BETRAYED US! I WILL HAVE REVENGE!

AIEEE! COME TO ME, COMRADES! COME TO ME, HAIRY ONES. IT IS ZOG, AND WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

...AS FROM THE PARKED SAUCER...

GUNS TO PARALYZER RAYS SET. WE ALIVE THEM TAKE WILL!

THEY'RE COMING! WE HAVENT A CHANCE, BUT WE'LL DIE FIGHTING!

STAND, EARTHMAN! WE ONE CHANCE YOU GIVE. SURRENDER WILL YOU!

I'LL LET THIS ARRC ANSWER THAT!

YOU SHOT HIM, HUNT... AND LISTEN... THAT NOISE!

COME FROM YOUR TUNNELS, COMRADES...DEATH TO THOSE WHO BROUGHT US HERE!

AND INSTANTLY...

WE COME, ZOG. AND OUR HAIRY GUIDES WILL LEAD US AGAINST OUR TORMENTORS!

ON! ON! TAKE US TO THE ENEMY. WE SEEK BUT THE CHANCE OF GRAPPLING WITH THEM!

LYSSA!...EARTHPEOPLE! IT'S OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE. FOLLOW ME! LEAVE THESE STRANGERS TO TAKE CARE OF THE VOLTAMEN!

And so in the excitement of the struggle, Hunt and Lyssa, in company with their followers, slip away and soon were once more at their lookout station atop the half demolished buildings...

What's happening Hunt? I suppose the Voltamen are blasting those poor unarmed creatures!

No! Even before the Voltamen recovered from their surprise, the hairy ones led their masters into close quarters. Wow—look at that smack!

You visited our planet under pretense of friendship...captured us in your nets...

...embalmed us in those jelly capsules and brought us here to earth. You knew we would burrow below ground, and to survive we would have to attack and rob the earthpeople!

We have conquered them, Zog! We will retreat to their spacer—come!

This way! I can smell the exhaust fumes from the rockets!

They've gone, Hunt. But how will they be able to read their instruments to take them back?

By feeling the dials, Lyssa. And now one more Volta threat is ended!..

...for our planet is free of the mummy-men and their hairy guides!

But those who trekked west with their children must stay there, for the Voltamen will never cease to bedevil us!

LOST WORLD. IN EVERY ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!!

Futura

by JOHN DOUGLAS

OCEANIA, THE AQUA PLANET, GRACEFULLY GLIDES ITS ORBIT...A HUGE BALL OF SILVERY WATER.

BUT IN A CAVERN DEEP UNDER THE SEA, BLARGO, THE LAWLESS, STAGGERS TO FUTURA'S SIDE, BABBLING LIKE A BABY, "I SCORNED YOUR MERCY PLEAS, EARTHGIRL ...FORCED YOU TO FLEE IN MY SPACER, THEN FOLLOWED. YOU SAVED ME WHEN A MONSTER STRUCK ME DOWN... AND NOW, WE ARE PRISONERS OF THESE BEASTS FORGIVE ME, FUTURA!" AND SHE ANSWERS, "BYGONES ARE BYGONES... STAND UP! WE MUST FACE THESE CREATURES".

SO DEFIANTLY THEY STAND AWAITING DEATH... AND SCORNFULLY, FUTURA EYES THE CONVERGING CREATURES.

"IT IS NOW ONE DIES THAT MATTERS, NOT WHEN OR WHY. WE WILL NOT CRINGE BEFORE THESE THINGS." BUT LOOK!...THAT WALL!"

"IT SHINES AND GLOWS WITH A STRANGE WEIRD LIGHT..IT SPLASHES FIRE!...THE BEASTS COWER IN FEAR!"

"AND LISTEN! I HEAR A FAR-OFF RUMBLING... IT GROWS CLOSER—I SEE IT—LOOK THERE."

INSTANTLY, FROM THE GLOOM, A BEETLE-LIKE DEVICE SKIDS FORWARD...ITS BEACON-TOWER ASLOW...LONG PROBING RAYS REVOLVING... SEARCHING...

...AND SUDDENLY CONTACTS THE TWO AWE-STRUCK PEOPLE. PLUCKS THEM UP, SUCKS THEM TOWARD IT...

...A PORTHOLE GAPES...THEY SPRAWL INSIDE. STAGGER TO THEIR FEET AND GAZE IN THEIR CAPTORS' LEERING FACES!

THEN ON CHURNS THE RUMBLING BULK... THROUGH GLITTERING CAVERNS... ON... ON TOWARD ITS MYSTERIOUS RENDEZVOUS...

WHO INSIDE, HARSH GUTTURAL MURMURINGS SUDDENLY ARE STILLED AS [illegible] CRIES

"THE MYSTERY SANDS! STAND BY TO EJECT OUR CAPTIVES!"

AND BEFORE THE PORTALS OF A MANY-SPIRED PALACE THE THING OF METAL PAUSES...

AND THROUGH IT RESOUNDS THE HISS OF VALVES RELEASED...

AND, AS IF BY UNSEEN HANDS, FUTURA AND BLARGO ARE FLUNG FORWARD...

...HURTLED ONTO A SLAB OF SOME STRANGE MARBLE...

FOR SECONDS THEY LAY AS LIFELESS, STUNNED BY THE SUDDEN EXPLOSION... UNTIL AT LAST, FUTURA SHAKES OFF THE DARKNESS THAT ENVELOPS HER MIND AND STARES OUT ON A SEA OF SAND... HEARS A NEARBY VOICE CROAKING...

"GAZE, GUESTS. LOOK AT THOSE MONSTERS... YESTERDAY THEY WERE PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES. NOW LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES.."

"DON'T TOUCH ME! THREE DAYS AGO I WAS AN EARTHMAN... AND WHEN I REFUSED TO DO THE HEADS' BIDDING, THEY CAST ME HERE ONTO THE MYSTERIOUS SANDS WHERE PEOPLE TURN INTO MONSTERS."

"SO ARE WE ALL... ALL EVIL THINGS WITH SCALY BODIES, BEAKS AND CLAWS!" SO MOUTHED THE OTHERS.

INSTANTLY FUTURA'S ANGER MOUNTS ... SHE LEAPS TOWARD HER TORMENTORS, "RELEASE THEM FROM THIS EVIL SPELL!" SHE SCREAMS.

BUT A GLEAMING BLADE POINT MAKES HER PAUSE, AS A GLOATING VOICE TAUNTS, "REMEMBER. IF YOU REFUSE TO OBEY THE HEADS, YOU WILL JOIN OUR UNHAPPY THRONG! NOW COME!"

AND SOON THEY PAUSE BEFORE A GREAT BRONZE DOOR. "WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?" DEMANDS THE EARTHGIRL.

"NO QUESTIONS! THE HEADS GROW IMPATIENT." THE PORTAL GUARDIAN REPLIES!

AS THE DOOR CREAKS WIDE... STRANGE INCENSE BURNS HER BRAIN... SHE STARES AS ONE BENUMBED, THEN SHRIEKS...

"...HEADS ON VASES! THEIR EYES MOVE AND THEIR LIPS TWITCH... THEY'RE ALIVE!"

AND INSTANTLY, THOUGHT WAVES OF AFFIRMATION FLOOD THE CHAMBER... FOR IN SUCH A MANNER DO THESE BEINGS SPEAK. THEN COMES A LONG SILENT PAUSE...

A GUARD HARKENS TO THE SILENT ORDERS, TURNS TOWARD FUTURA, "THIS ROBOT FROM YOUR SPACE... HOW DOES IT WORK?"

"ANSWER FAST OR INTO THE REALKA MACHINE YOU GO.. AND, THEN TO JOIN THE MONSTERS ON THE MYSTERY SANDS. COME NOW, NO TRICKS!" THE GUARD EXCLAIMS.

BUT FUTURA'S EYES SPARK HATRED... "WE ARE DOOMED," SHE MURMURS... THEN LURCHES AT HER TORMENTOR, "FIGHT, BLARGO, FIGHT!"

CAT-SWIFT ARE HER MOVEMENTS. THE GUARDS, STUNNED BY HER SUDDEN ATTACK, RECOIL....

BUT OTHERS HEAR, AND RUSH TO AID THEIR FELLOWS.

WHEN SUDDEN CLAMOR ECHOES THE HALLS AS THE HORDE OF ANGRY GUARDS PRESS TOWARD HER...

BUT WITH SNAKE-LIKE SWIFTNESS, SHE EVADES THEIR LUNGING STROKES... STREAKS PAST THEM TO THE ALTAR'S BASE...

"I'LL SMASH THESE JARS!.. I'LL DESTROY THOSE HEADS OF EVIL!" SHE SHOUTS... RAISES HIGH HER SWORD.

BUT NO TRACE OF TERROR CLOUDS THE SILENT FACES AS THE THREATENING SWORD-BLADE SWINGS...

...FOR SUDDENLY A DARTING FLASH SPRAYS THE GLEAMING WEAPON... THE STEEL TURNS LIQUID... SPATTERS ON THE FLOOR.

AND BEFORE FUTURA RECOVERS FROM THE SUDDEN SHOCK, SOME UNSEEN FORCE PLUCKS HER UP...

...HURLS HER AND HER ALLY WITH SUPER-HUMAN POWER AGAINST THE WALL...

WHERE, STUNNED AND SENSELESS, SHE LAYS HELPLESS.

"TAKE THEM TO THE DUPLICATING CAPSULES!" SCREAMS A NEARBY GUARD. "THE HEADS DESIRE TO LEARN THE SECRET OF THE ROBOTS, SO LET THEIR REPLICAS DISCLOSE IT!"

"MAKE MY REPLICA? WHAT CAN THEY MEAN? FUTURA VAGUELY HONORS, BUT HER MIND IS STILL TOO WEAK TO PENETRATE THE STUPOR MISTS, SO HER QUESTION GOES UNANSWERED...

...UNTIL GRADUALLY, SHE IS AWAKENED BY ELECTRIC CRACKLING. SHE STIRS...

...FEELS HERSELF IMPRISONED IN A GLASSINE CAPSULE...SEES THE GUARDS WITHOUT ADJUSTING DIALS...

LIGHTS GLOWING BRILLIANTLY... SOME UNSEEN FORCE PRESSING ON HER, AND AGAIN WEARINESS AND SLEEP.

THEN LONG MINUTES LATER "THEY ARE FINISHED..." COMES THE COMMAND. "TURN OFF THE POWER!"

"AWAKEN, FOOLISH FUTURA...NOW YOU WILL SEE WHAT WE HAVE DONE!"

AND SLOWLY SHE RISES... "IS THAT A MIRROR I LOOK INTO?" SHE ASKS... "NO... BUT THEN WHO IS SHE?"

"YOUR REPLICA...IT KNOWS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW...IT WILL TELL THE HEADS THE SECRET OF THE ROBOT!" COMES THE ANSWER.

"THEN I'VE LOST! FOR IF THESE EVIL HEADS CAN OPERATE THE ROBOT, THEY'LL TAKE MY SPACER AND ESCAPE THESE WALLS TO RULE THE UNIVERSE!"

AND ONLY ONE THOUGHT GIVES FUTURA COURAGE. "MY REPLICA WILL LIVE BUT A FEW HOURS... I MUST AND WILL FIND A WAY TO FOOL THESE WICKED ONES!"

FUTURA APPEARS IN EVERY PLANET COMICS!

UNPOSTED By THORNECLIFFE HERRICK

OUT there between Mars and Jupiter is an asteroid with a thirty-foot death walking on it. There are three spaceships in a valley, fungus-covered and rusting away in twilight: an asteroid storeship, a little I. P. Patrolboat, and the dinghy of a prospector who landed to weld a sprung blastube

Off a little way is a sagging sheet-metal shack, a dusty table, a typewriter on it. There are some papers on the floor, and through the cracked-open walls comes a sudden wind, like a breath, to ruffle them in your hands as you gather and sort them. There is a distant rumble, a distant hissing, as you begin to read (only the wind, the collapse of a cutbank). The yard, with its tangle of greenish-white sticks, sucked dry and shredded into shapelessness, becomes dark with shadow (only the asteroid night—it comes so suddenly, you know).

July 19, 2404

Mikal and Helen Haris
1-1056-4a Novavenue
Ofei, Mars
Dear, Kids:

I got a story to tell you and maybe after you have heard it you will understand why I have not written to you for so long. First how is Helen and little Micky? Fine I hope. I am o.k. too except for what I said before about the story. So here goes. It all started about three weeks ago. It was Monday (it probably seems funny to you that we stick to a regular four day work week out here but it was Frank's idea and anyway you know I sure don't mind taking it easy!) We were out in the yard checking up to see what was the matter with our sunmill. It had gone bust during the night and the tank was dry and all our animals was standing around looking thirsty—(we got two more garns since I wrote you last). Anyway the trouble was a shorted photo-electricell and we fixed it up easy and we were heading back for the house when we heard a funny wailing sound.

I'm telling you Micky it was the doggonest sound you ever heard, like a Patrol siren only real far away and more shaky. It made me shiver when I heard it but you know Frank he said if I didn't want to come that was all right with him but he was going to see what that noise was. I don't like to go poking around outside our energy fence, there are too many crazy things on this asteroid. Sometimes in the middle of the night you can hear them howling and screaming up in the hills.

So Frank dropped the fence and went out and I went along too so if he did run into trouble I would be there to help him out of it. I hadn't ever been outside the fence since we first came here, except to the mine and we got that lined off with a runway for us to get to the entrance.

We heard the sound again and Frank said "over this way" and I tell you we must have climbed a mile into those hills before we found it. I'll tell you what it looked like if you can imagine it. It was about a foot and a half high and round like a Mars-melon with a lot of ropy tentacles growing out of the top. There is soft fur all over it and it walks on four legs that look like chicken legs with big claws. I wanted to kill it but Frank said "no let's take it back to the house and make a pet out of it" I thought it was pretty big for a pet but Frank said we had room and besides he thought it was cute and it would just die out here without food. Another one like it only bigger was lying nearby under a rock I guess had fallen on it. Maybe that was the mother (?)

It looked at us like it knew we were talking about it. It wailed again and Frank said "see it wants us to take it home" So we did.

We let it sleep behind our tomic stove on an old blanket and we found out that it likes to eat candy and meat. Fraank is sitting on his bunk right now as I write this and feeding it pieces of kanl liver and it is gobbling them up like nobodys business. I got to admit it's pretty cute running around like that.

Anyway that was three weeks ago Micky. Frank has been acting like a first time father, feeding it and tucking it in and everything until you would think he was in love with it. It is gentle and likes to play (with things it ought to leave alone as you will see!) and it has learned its name and our names and words like food and come here. I wish I could teach it what to do when I say go away because it is getting awfully big and I keep stumbling over it. I forgot to tell you didn't I? It's growing so fast it hardly fits behind the stove any more, it's twice as big as it was a week ago and eats twice as much. I don't know how long our supplies will last at this rate. When I ask Frank about it he just laughs and says "so we'll have to radio the store-ship sooner" but it is the money I am thinking of.

Sometimes I wonder what Angel (that's what Frank named it) thinks about all the time. I think it DOES think, Micky. Sometimes I catch it looking at us like a big cat, you know how cats look as if they are thinking about important things, that's the way Angel looks. Its fur is changing color from gray to red, maybe from all the kanl and beef and stuff we feed it. Dial the library when you get this letter and see if they can screen you any dope on these things, then you'll see what I mean. I don't think the library will have anything though. I sure never heard of them before.

We were sure lucky to get this mining claim. Real pay dirt, you can almost kick the uranium up out of the ground. We'll come back pretty soon to Mars and then you'll get the credits I owe you, you shylock. I miss the teletheatres and things. When I come back I am going to do all the things I always wanted to do like buy a farm outside one of the canals and maybe raise a family. Know any nice girls Micky? or maybe Helen will ditch you and marry me for my money, ha ha.

Frank just went outside to the mine. I don't know where he gets his wind. This clod is only .4908 Earth grav but breathing canned air really kills any strength you save from being light on

your feet. Nothing like the real stuff blowing cool and sweet in your face. I hear stories about men who like living on these merry-go-rounds but hanged if I can see it. Angel just went out. It walks like one of those kids toys that won't stay over on its side, kind of rolling. You can never tell what it is looking at because it's got two eyes in front and two in back.

I don't want to throw my troubles at you Micky but that thing is beginning to get me down. I came in the other day and it was standing on my table and fooling around with this typewriter, it was punching out words. I mean WORDS Micky, it was looking at what I had typed (you know I sometimes write poetry for my own enjoyment, who elses?) and it was figuring out what keys to hit and make the same letters on the paper. You got to give it credit for brains for an animal. I got mad and kicked it and chased it outside. Frank yelled at me for doing it but gee I would have a time getting a new typewriter if Angel broke this one. I wish Frank would throw the animal out for good but he won't, he really likes it and it follows him around like a dog.

It sounds funny but I guess I'm jealous about it. Frank and me used to get along swell but now things are different, he pays more attention to Angel. That is why I didn't write before, I feel so rotten. After twelve years mining the asteroids together we start quarreling over a walking balloon! Frank wants to teach it tricks and show it off when we get back to Mars. When you think about the 'typewriter 'business you see it sure can learn tricks darn it!

Well anyway, how are things in Ofei by the Great Canal? Don't you kids worry too much about the war. Our telaudia picks up some broadcasts from Jupe every once in a while (but the reception is awful) and the Jovians are acting mighty confident which means they are beginning to wish they had stayed at home and never started it in the first place. There was a honey of a space battle a couple of L-minutes from here, all we could see was a lot of green flares and sparks, and afterwards the Federation Navy sailed by as pretty as you please without hardly a scratch on it. I guess the Jupes will give up soon. I hope so, we were dodging debris for a week after the scrap.

Helen next time you send a package include some magazines and

The next page is missing. Your eyes rove and settle! . . . There it is, in the typewriter; you sit down and read on.

books huh? There isn't much to do out here offhours except read and I have read Murder on Mercury about a hundred times. You don't know what lonliness is till you work a two man asteroid. Frank wants you to send him a movie camera, don't spend too much, a two dimensional will be o.k. He wants to take pictures of Angel. The thing can jump like nothing you ever saw, it jumped clear over the house yesterday! I bet it could even jump the energy fence if it wanted to and that's twenty fee

MY GOD MICKY I just come back in the house I heard Frank scream and i ran out and he's dead DEAD ANgel killed him the thing was CLAWING HIM MICKY IT WAS CLAWING HIM LIKE A RED MOUTHED TIGER I hadmy gun and I killed the filthy thing and I dropped the fence and I rolled it out on the ground and i hope it rots ROTSROTS whatll I do franks dead I'm going outand blast itdown to ASHES

I just came in again, I couldnt find Angel, I guess maybe I just wounded it and it crawled off in the hills .This tears it Micky Im going to get off this slimy asteroid and go back to Mars and then come back here with a lot of men I'll hire and kill all these AngelsDEVILS! MICKY I GUESS I'LL NEVER SLEEP AGAIN UNTIL THEY ARE ALL DEAD

I SWEAR TO GOD THAT IIISWEAR T HA I SW H'RSWEA NI

You explode away from the table where you have been hunching over the typewriter. Gasping, you throw the rest of the letter from you; and like yellowed, waving hands, the pages settle to the floor, to wait there for the fatal curiosity of the next spaceman to enter this ghastly shack.

Your feet crunch through the litter of sticks in the shadowed yard—you know now what they really are—as you run for your ship.

Like the others, you almost make it.

AURO LORD OF JUPITER

by DICK CHARLES

THE AIR WAS SWEET TO SMELL, AND THE GROUND FIRM TO WALK UPON—FOR AURO, LORD OF JUPITER WAS HOME! BUT EVEN NOW, WHEN HIS HEART SHOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH JOY, CHET EDSON, THE DEAD EARTHLING WHOSE BRAIN DWELT IN AURO, SENSED A STRANGE, NEW FEAR GRIPPING THE MONARCH...

I SHALL HASTEN TO THE PALACE AND SURPRISE DORNA. BUT FIRST I MUST LEARN THE MEANING OF THIS DECAYING MONUMENT!

LISTEN, AURO, THAT SMALL CHILD'S SPEAKING TO YOU!

YOU LOOK PUZZLED, STRANGER. KNOW YOU NOT WHOSE STATUE THAT IS? WHY, HE WAS THE GREATEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED!

IS HE DEAD NOW, SON? TELL ME—WHO WAS HE?

YOU MUST BE NEW ON JUPITER IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THAT! WHY 'TIS AURO, WHO RULED HERE BEFORE DORNA, THE TYRANT. AND— WATCH OUT!

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WHAT? THOSE TWO GRAVICARS WILL COLLIDE! QUICKLY, SON, RUN AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE YOU ARE HURT!

AYE, STRANGER, AND YOU HAD BETTER TOO— IF YOU WANT TO STAY IN ONE PIECE! COME ON!

MAY—AURO CANNOT LEAVE! THOSE PEOPLE IN THE VEHICLES NEED MY HELP! I MUST GO TO THEM! WAIT— WHAT IS THAT?

SO— YOU REBELS THOUGHT YOU COULD ESCAPE DORNA'S SECURO POLICE, EH? WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO TRAITORS!

THESE MEN HE CALLS TRAITORS—WHY, THEY ARE MEMBERS OF MY OLD SPACE REGIMENT! THE POLICE SEIZE THEM! I MUST TRY TO STOP THIS VIOLENCE!

DROP YOUR WEAPON, FOOL, THESE MEN COULD NEVER BE CRIMINALS!

CAPTAIN— CAPTAIN— BLAST THIS MAD ONE! HE RESISTS... OOOH!

THERE, TRAITOROUS DOG, THIS PARA-RAY WILL HOLD YOU UNTIL DORNA PASSES HER SENTENCE UPON YOU AND THE OTHERS WHO WOULD DEFY HER ORDERS!

OOH!

LATER, IN AURO'S PALACE...

LISTEN TO ME, DORNA, EVER SINCE AURO LEFT, HAVE I NOT BEEN YOUR FRIEND AND ADVISOR? I TELL YOU NOW, THESE MEN OF THE PRISON REGIMENT WHO DISOBEYED YOU— THEY MUST DIE!

BUT, KRIO, THEY ONLY TRIED TO HELP THE POLITICAL PRISONERS TO ESCAPE! I CANNOT CONDEMN THEM FOR THAT!

YOU STUBBORN WITCH— YOU MUST, OR YOUR POWER ON JUPITER WILL WANE! I THINK A SESSION WITH THE THOUGHT-REPRESSOR SHOULD CONVINCE YOU!

NO, KRIO, LET ME GO— NOT THAT AGAIN!

WHAT? THOSE TWO GRAVICARS WILL COLLIDE! QUICKLY, SON, RUN AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE YOU ARE HURT!
AYE, STRANGER, AND YOU HAD BETTER TOO— IF YOU WANT TO STAY IN ONE PIECE! COME ON!
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SWIFTLY...

NOW SHALL KRIO CURB YOUR FOOLISH THOUGHTS, DORNA, AND INSTILL HIS OWN! 'TIS THUS I HAVE RULED JUPITER THROUGH YOU, EVER SINCE AURO LEFT! THERE, THE SWITCH—NOW...

NEED ME, DORNA! THE MEN IN XERO PRISON TRIED TO OVERTHROW YOUR RULE! THE SOLDIERS OF THE GUARDING REGIMENT ATTEMPTED TO RELEASE THEM. THEREFORE, THEY MUST PERISH!

EVEN NOW THE REBELLIOUS SOLDIERS ARE BEING RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF THEIR TREACHERY. YOU WILL GO TO XERO AND PASS THE DEATH SENTENCE! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES, YES, I MUST GO TO XERO!

MEANWHILE, AT THE SPACE PORT...

MAKE HASTE, CHOROH, ORDERS JUST CAME OVER THE VIDO TO TRANSPORT THE PRISONERS BACK TO XERO!

AYE, CAPTAIN, I WILL CUT THE FORCE RAYS THAT RESTRAIN THEM, AND LOAD THEM ONTO THE SPACER!

ALL RIGHT, YOU SWINE, GET INTO THE HOLD AND NO TRICKS, OR YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU DESERVE RIGHT NOW!

I MUST NOT TRY TO ESCAPE YET! I SHALL GO WITH THESE MEN IN ORDER TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENS ON JUPITER!

AS IN THE PRISON COMPARTMENT OF THE SPACER...

TELL ME, ARIEMO, WHERE ARE THE POLICE TAKING US?

I KNOW NOT, BROTHER. BACK TO XERO, PERHAPS— BUT WHEREVER IT IS, IT WILL PROBABLY MEAN THE END OF US!

SOON, THE WAITING SPACER VIBRATES ON THE LAUNCHING PLATFORM AS THE POWERFUL TURBO-JETS ROAR WITH LIFE. THEN A SUDDEN EXPLOSION OF SOUND AND...

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LATER, ON A BALCONY OVERLOOKING THE COURTYARD OF XERO PRISON...

NOTHING YOU SAY CAN SWAY ME, COMMANDER GORTH! THE SOLDIERS OF YOUR REGIMENT WHO TRIED TO AID THE POLITICAL PRISONERS MUST SUFFER THE PENALTY!

BUT YOUR HIGHNESS, THE PUNISHMENT IS TOO EXTREME! MY MEN HAVE ALWAYS SERVED JUPITER FAITHFULLY! YOU MUST BE LENIENT!

HOLD YOUR TONGUE, GORTH, YOU SPEAK NONSENSE! THEY COMMITTED TREASON, AND, AS A SOLDIER, YOU KNOW HOW THEY MUST PAY!

AYE, DORNA, I KNOW ALL TOO WELL—BUT LOOK!

'TIS THE PRISON SHIP BEARING THE ENEMIES OF YOUR REIGN, DORNA! REMEMBER WHAT YOU MUST DO!

HAVE NO FEARS, KRIO, THEIR INSOLENCE BURNS IN MY MIND! HAVE THEM ASSEMBLED IN THE YARD, GORTH!

SOON...

THEY LINE US UP IN FRONT OF THAT BALCONY WITH THE AMPLIFIERS! WAIT, IT CANNOT BE—I SEE DORNA! I MUST GO TO HER!

BEWARE, AURO, DON'T REVEAL YOURSELF! YOU **MUST** REMAIN UNKNOWN TO YOUR BELOVED UNTIL YOU DISCOVER WHAT'S HAPPENING ON JUPITER!

MEN OF THE PRISON REGIMENT—YOU HAVE BETRAYED YOUR COUNTRY BY TRYING TO AID STATE PRISONERS TO ESCAPE! THE PENALTY FOR SUCH AN OFFENSE IS DEATH BY THE ORGO MONSTERS!

NO-NO—I WILL NOT ALLOW IT! I CANNOT SEE MY MEN DIE THAT WAY! WAIT.... THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

GORTH—WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE MAD, MAN, YOU'LL... OOH!

OUT OF MY WAY, KRIO, THE BEASTS SHALL BE RELEASED—**NOW!**

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SLOWLY, THE GREAT DUROSTEEL DOORS OF THE PENS OF THE ORGO MONSTERS-THE WORK BEASTS OF XERO PRISON-PART! THE RAGING BRUTES SURGE FORWARD!

LOOK-ORGO MONSTERS-THEY COME TOWARD US! OUR GUARDS FLEE! QUICKLY, FRIENDS, THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE! HEAD FOR THE SPACER! WAIT-WHO IS THAT?

HAH! 'TIS MY OLD FRIEND GORTH-HE KNOWS ME NOT! GOOD, WHILE HE LEADS THE MEN, I, SHALL GO AND GET DORNA! SHE WILL GO ON WITH US!

QUICKLY, MY MEN. WE MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!

NO-NO, BELIEVE ME, DORNA, I AM TRULY AURO! BUT HOLD-YOUR EYES ARE DAZED AND YOUR VOICE, YOU SPEAK AS ONE UNDER A SPELL! LISTEN TO ME, BELOVED, WE... WAIT... WHO COMES?

FOOL-WHY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME SPEAKING WITH THIS WENCH? MAKE HASTE; THE SPACER IS READY TO GO!

I SHALL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT MY DORNA! LET ME STAY HERE WITH HER-I MUST DISCOVER WHAT HAS HAPPENED!

HE IS OUT OF HIS MIND! SEIZE HIM AND TAKE HIM TO THE SHIP! ALREADY THE MEN OF DORNA COME WITH A RAY CANNON!

DORNA, DARLING-DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE ME? 'TIS AURO-I HAVE RETURNED TO YOU! BUT COME QUICKLY, WE HAVE NO TIME TO TALK NOW!

STAND BACK, YOU LYING TRAITOR-I KNOW YOU NOT! YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE WHOM I JUST CONDEMNED!

FIFTY SECONDS LATER...

LOOK-THE REBELS LEAVE THE COURTYARD! AIM WELL AND BLAST THEIR SHIP TO MOLTEN METAL!

AYE, YOUR HIGHNESS, WE SHALL NOT FAIL!

Eclipse #61-12-P23

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MISERABLE WRETCHES—WHY DO YOU NOT SMASH THEIR SPACER AS I HAVE COMMANDED?

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, EXALTED DORNA, THEIR SPEED IS TOO GREAT! BUT LOOK—THE ORGO MONSTERS ARE STIRRED TO A FRENZY! WE MUST PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THEM

AS ABOVE...

MY PLAN HAS SUCCEEDED! THE BEASTS WILL PROVIDE CRUEL DORNA WITH A FITTING END, WHILE WE FLY TO SAFETY!

DO YOU HEAR GORTH, AURO? HE WANTS YOUR LOVED ONE KILLED! YOU CAN'T STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!

NAY—AURO WILL NOT ALLOW ANY HARM TO DORNA! AWAY, GORTH, I SHALL TAKE THE CONTROLS!

GOOD WORK, AURO! NOW HURRY—RETURN TO THE PRISON YARD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

AS...

TOO MANY, YOUR HIGHNESS, WE CANNOT DESTROY ALL OF THEM!

YOU MUST—YOU MUST—ELSE WE PERISH! BUT WHAT—THAT NOISE!

BEHOLD—THE REBELS RETURN! THIS IS MOST STRANGE—THEY USE THEIR RAYS TO AID DORNA!

BUT WHY? A LITTLE WHILE AGO, DORNA HAD SENTENCED THEM TO DIE AT THE MERCY OF THE VERY BEASTS THEY NOW DESTROY!

LATER...

YOU HAVE MADE A GRAVE ERROR IN SAVING DORNA, RASH YOUTH! NOW SHE STILL LIVES TO CRUSH JUPITER UNDER HER IRON HEEL!

I SHALL NEVER BELIEVE THAT GENTLE DORNA COULD BE A HARD DICTATOR MY FRIEND! SOME EVIL POWER RULES HER!

YOU'RE RIGHT, AURO, AND YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT IT BEFORE YOU CAN AGAIN BE LORD OF JUPITER!

AURO, LORD OF JUPITER, APPEARS IN EVERY ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!!

#61 P1 P24

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SPACE RANGERS

by HUGH FITZHUGH

THE REEL OF DOCUMENTARY FILM IN THE SPACE RANGERS' RECORD ROOM WAS LABELED TOP SECRET.' THIS ONLY GOADED HERC, FLEDGLING RANGER, INTO PICKING IT UP AND PUTTING IT INTO A PROJECTOR MARKED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.' SUDDENLY, AS HE FLIPPED THE STARTER SWITCH, A COLD CRISP VOICE CUT THROUGH THE SILENCE...

WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE IS THE HISTORICAL VISIO-DOCUMENT OF THE FAMOUS GETTOR CASE, WHICH WILL GO DOWN IN RANGER ANNALS AS ONE OF THE MOST BAFFLING INSTANCES OF SPACE PIRACY.' RECORDED TESTIMONY BY REEF RYAN AND FLINT BAKER SHOWS THAT THE ACTUAL STORY STARTED ONE DAY, AT SPACE-PORT X-3, WITH THIS FURTIVE TRANSFER OF A KEY FOR LAUNCHING TUBE 7...

BAGGAGE VAN

GOSH - I'D SURE CATCH IT IF FLINT KNEW I WAS FOOLING AROUND WITH THESE OLD FILMS.' AW - FLINT'LL NEVER FIND OUT.' WAIT - LOOK AT THAT.'

HEY, THIS IS THE OLD CASE FLINT TOLD ME ABOUT.' I WONDER IF THAT MISSION WAS AS DANGEROUS AS HE BUILT IT UP TO BE? HMM... LET'S SEE...

AND AS THE STORY UNFOLDS ON THE TEL-AUDIO SCREEN...

HERE WE ARE AT LOCK 7, MEN... THAT'S YOUR NEW SPACE CRAFT.

THIS IS THE NEW ELECTRO-BEAM GUN. GIVE IT A TRIAL ON YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT.

HMM.. AND WHAT'S THAT, VICEROY?

PATROL THE GORDIAN BELT.. SPACE PIRATES HAVE BEEN PICKING OFF OUR CARGO SHIPS. TRACK THEM DOWN!

MUCH LATER..

WHEW! WHAT PICKUP ON THIS BABY, FLINT. WE'RE HITTING 32 MEGS AND NOT A QUIVER!

AND THE THROTTLE'S ONLY HALF OPEN, REEF.

HOW'S ABOUT A CHECKUP?

RIGHTO, FLINT OLD BOY. I'LL FLICK ON THE PHOTOBEAM DETECTOR.

C'MON OUT, CHUM, WITH YOUR HANDS REACHING FOR SPACE, YOU'RE COVERED!

UNBROKEN.. NO! BROKEN BEAM AT POINT 5!

SOMETHING'S BLOCKING THE LIGHT PATH. GRAB YOUR RAY GUN AND GIVE A LOOK-SEE!

AS ON THE SCREEN...

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE? HOW COULD ANYONE GET INTO A RANGER SHIP UNNOTICED. I WONDER IF IT COULD BE...

HEY, WHAT GIVES? TALK FAST, GIRLIE..

I BRIBED A GUARD TO LET ME IN.. BUT, PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T SEND ME BACK! THESE SPACE PIRATES—THEY KILLED MY BROTHER.. I'M GOING TO GET REVENGE!

IT'S TOO LATE TO TURN BACK NOW, SISTER. YOU CAN TAG ALONG, BUT STAY OUT OF OUR WAY.

HOLD IT, SOMETHING'S COMING OVER THE RADIO!

THIS IS GETTOR. IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, STOP YOUR CRAFT AND ABANDON IT! DISOBEY AND YOU'RE DOOMED!

GREAT SCOTT... WHO'S THAT? LOOK, REEF, OUT THERE IN SPACE!

THE H..HEAD ...IT'S SUSPENDED IN SPACE! WHOEVER THAT GETTOR IS, FLINT, I'LL GIVE HIM A RAY GUN SPRAY RIGHT NOW!

NO GO, FLINT, IT'S DISAPPEARED. LISTEN...THAT VOICE AGAIN!

VERY WELL, RANGER DOGS, THE METAL LEECHES WILL BE LAUNCHED!

WHAT THE...THOSE THINGS CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. I'LL POUR ON THE JUICE AND TRY TO DODGE THEM!

TOO LATE ...WE CAN'T ESCAPE THEM! THEY'LL HIT US!

INSTANTLY, THE IMPACT OF METAL ON THE SPACER'S HULL, AND THEN THE CRAFT MOVES THROUGH SPACE AS THOUGH DRAWN BY A GIANT MAGNET...

REEF, WHAT IS THAT? SOME SHAPES BEGINNING TO FORM AROUND THAT HOLE!

W-WHY, IT'S A SPACE SHIP.. AN INVISIBLE SPACE SHIP! WE'RE BEING SUCKED INTO THE HOLD!

REEF—FLINT, HELP! THE SUCTION'S SPINNING OUR SHIP LIKE A TOP...OOH!

INSIDE..

THE HEAD!

GREETINGS! AS SOON AS YOU'VE BEEN DISARMED, I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF. OHH.. FORGIVE THE INVISIBLE SUIT I'M WEARING.. FORGOT TO PUT ON THE HEAD-PIECE, YOU KNOW.. COME TO MY OFFICE.

MY HAND, SIR. I'M GETTOR SPACE PIRATE, EXTRA-ORDINARY. AND WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY INVISIBLE SHIP.. AND SUIT?

FANTASTIC! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

FANTASTIC PERHAPS, BUT SUCCESSFUL.. MR. BAKER, YOU'VE REMOVED A NEEDED PART FROM YOUR EXCELLENT GUN. HAND IT OVER!

COME NOW, BAKER. QUICKLY! I'VE VARIOUS METHODS OF PERSUASION. PERHAPS THE GIRL...

OKAY, OKAY, BUD, GUESS YOU GOT ME! HERE!

SMASHED! VERY CLEVER. TOO BAD I MUST PREPARE TO ATTACK THE SPACE LINER DUE ALONG THIS LANE IN TWENTY MINUTES.

BUT **THIS** IS A SMALL SAMPLE! DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL BE FORCED INTO MAKING A NEW PART LATER!

NOW I'LL PUT ON MY HOOD AND LEAVE YOU..

GOTTA CHANCE IT WHILE I **STILL** KNOW WHERE HE IS.. HERE GOES!

WHOOPS! CAN'T SEE HIM, BUT I CONNECTED!

OOF!

NICE STUFF, REEF! NOW GIMME HIS INVISIBLE SUIT. GOTTA WORK FAST.. HIS MEN OUTSIDE ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK THE SPACE LINER!

HERE'S THE HOOD!

S

PHEW – FLINT MAY BRAG A LITTLE SOMETIMES, BUT HE AND REEF RYAN SURE MADE A SLAM-BANG TEAM! WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, LOOK HOW THEY GOT OUT OF THAT MESS...

AS THE FIGURES ON THE SCREEN ENACT THEIR LITTLE DRAMA...

LET'S MOVE, REEF! WHILE I HOP INTO THIS SUIT AND MAKE MY LITTLE SPEECH OVER THE ANNUNCIATOR, YOU PUT THIS BACK IN THE GUN!

GOTCHA, PAL... AND GOOD LUCK!

THEN AS FLINT'S VOICE ALERTS GETTOR'S GUN CREWS...

HEY, THAT'S NOT GETTOR'S VOICE!

CEASE PREPARATIONS. PLANS CANCELLED. LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!

L-LOOK, COMING UP THE CATWALK! A.. A GUN FLOATING IN SPACE!

S., SOMETHING'S QUEER HERE.. I'M.. WATCH OUT!

WHAMMO.. THIS SUIT'S THE BERRIES.. GOT 'EM ON THE RUN!

THAT'S ONE GUN OUTA COMMISSION.. THIS'LL BE A CINCH!

MEANWHILE, GETTOR STIRS AND STAGGERS TO HIS FEET, AS...

THEY'VE GOT MY SUIT.. MY SHIP.. BUT THEY'LL NEVER GET ME! THAT LEVER WILL BLOW US UP... IT'S THE BEST WAY!

WHILE..

WHAT! THAT RAY JUST HIT ME.. BUT NOTHING HAPPENED! THIS SUIT'S NOT ONLY INVISIBLE, BUT RAY PROOF!

W-WE CAN'T FIGHT A WALKING GUN! STOP.. WE SURRENDER!

SMART BOYS. LAY THOSE PISTOLS DOWN, CHUMS.

ABOVE, ON THE CATWALK..

REEF! LOOK BELOW... GETTOR'S TRYING TO REACH THAT LEVER!

IF I MISS...

I DIDN'T!

LATER, AS THE SPACE LINER PASSES...

THAT LINER CAN'T TELL WE'RE SITTING ON THIS INVISIBLE SHIP.. I'LL RADIO 'EM WITH MY WRIST RADIO THAT WE'VE GOT A LOAD OF PRISONERS!

YEH, THEN GIMME A HAND.. I GOT THE HOOD OFF, BUT THE REST OF THE SUIT'S STUCK!

THUS CONCLUDES THE ALMOST INCREDIBLE GETTOR CASE!

AND AS THE SCREEN DARKENS...

THOSE LUCKY STIFFS... I WISH I COULD'VE GOTTEN IN ON A DEAL LIKE THAT! OH WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD FEEL GRATEFUL FOR LEARNING ALL THE RANGER ROPES FROM A GREAT GUY LIKE FLINT!

SPACE RANGERS IN EVERY ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

STAR PIRATE

by LEN DODSON

"LONG LIFE, SELF-GOVERNMENT, PEACE AND LUXURY...ALL THESE CAN BE YOURS. SEE THE MIRACLES OF THE HYDRAPONIC GARDENS, FEEL THE AMAZING BENEFITS OF SELF REGULATING CLIMATES. SEE THE WONDERS OF THE FLOATING CITY, AND BUY A SHARE IN YOUR FUTURE TODAY!" SO READ THE GLOWING PHRASES OF A REAL ESTATE PROSPECTUS... RECEIVED BY STAR PIRATE — AND NOW IN HIS HIDEOUT...

HMM...HIDIN' IN HIS LAB— HE'S UP TO SOMETHIN', ALL RIGHT! BUT STAR'S NOT PUTTIN' ANYTHING OVER ON LITTLE OLE BLACKY. THIS X-RAY BEAM WILL—WHAT THE—

ULP! A HAND! AN ARM—GRABBING ME...HELP!!

HEY! I-I'M BEIN' PULLED RIGHT THROUGH SOLID WALL!

I-I'M INSIDE THE LAB! I-I WASN'T PEEKIN' WITH THAT X-RAY, HONEST I WASN'T! I'LL BE GOOD AND — HEY; WHO ARE YOU?

Y-YOU'RE NOT MY PAL... SAY, WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' IN STAR PIRATE'S LAB?

OH! IT IS YOU! BUT WHY THE GET-UP? HOW'D YOU DO THAT WALL TRICK, HUH?

MY NEWEST INVENTION, BLACKY. BLUE DISSO-LIGHT, A RAY WHICH DESTROYS MATTER WITHOUT CHANGING ITS APPEARANCE. HOP INTO THAT DISGUISE. WE'VE GOT A DATE TO LOOK AT SOME REAL ESTATE.

BOON, IN THEIR SPACE SHIP...

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN THE MARKET FOR PROPERTY, STAR. LOOK, I GUESS THAT'S THE PLACE DOWN THERE.

YEP, THAT'S IT. WE'LL LAND IN THE CLEARING AND SEE WHAT COOKS.

MINUTES LATER...

AH YES, FOLKS - THIS SPACE BUS IS GOING TO TAKE YOU TO A PARADISE IN THE SKY, AN UNDREAMED OF WONDER! ALL ABOARD!

HMM... THIS PARADISE DEAL SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. I THINK I'LL GO ALONG AND SEE WHAT THESE BIRDS [illegible] UP TO - THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT ME!

SPACE BUS TO THE FLOATING CITY

BUT AS THE STRANGE GIRL BOARDS, ONE OF THE SPACE BUS' CREW ADJUSTS AN ODD LOOKING GADGET AT THE HATCHWAY ENTRANCE..

WHAT THE - METAL INDICATOR NEEDLE'S JUMPING LIKE CRAZY! THAT GAL - SHE MUST BE PACKIN' A BLASTER... BETTER TELL BOSS TABOR!

HAH! HERE COMES THE LAST TWO. NICE BATCH OF SUCKERS, EH? WE'LL MAKE A NICE HAUL THIS TRIP... WHAT'S WRONG?

THAT DAME WHO JUST BOARDED, TABOR- BETTER WATCH 'ER, SHE HAS A BLASTER ON 'ER!

SOON AFTER STAR AND BLACKY BOARD THE SPACE-BUS TO THE FLOATING CITY, THE TAKE-OFF SIGNAL IS GIVEN, AND INSTANTLY THE JET SHIP ROARS SKYWARD...

WELL, WE'RE OFF.' SAY, STAR, WHAT D'YOU SUPPOSE THE PITCH IS?

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, LUNKHEAD. HEY, WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?

THAT GAL...PURTY, AIN'T SHE, STAR! HMM...SHE LOOKS LONELY. MAYBE I'LL...

YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT, ROMEO. HER FACE IS VERY FAMILIAR, AND I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO SHE IS.

WELL, MAYBE I KIN GET HER NAME AND VIDEO-PHONE NUMBER FOR YOU, STAR.

LAY OFF! LOOK, THERE'S THE FLOATING CITY. WE'RE GOING TO LAND ON THAT RAMP.

HERE WE ARE, FOLKS.' FOLLOW ME, AND I'LL SHOW YOU SOME OF OUR CITY'S WONDERS.'

HYDRAPONIC GARDENS! ANY KIND OF FRUIT OR VEGETABLE YOUR HEART DESIRES - AND IT GROWS OVERNIGHT. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL - COME!

SOON...

MOVING SIDEWALKS, PLASTIC ELEVATORS, SELF-CONTROLLED CLIMATES, THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT YOU DESIRE...DID I HEAR AN OFFER?

PSST! TABOR, THERE'S THE DAME WHO'S CARRYIN' THE BLASTER. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT TAKE HER TO THE RUBBISH DISPOSAL ROOM WHILE THE CROWD'S LOOKING THE OTHER WAY.

THIS WAY, MISS! THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL I WANT TO SHOW YOU!

BUT I - SAY, TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME! THE CROWD'S GONE THE OTHER WAY!

YOU'LL COME WITH ME, AND NO FUNNY BUSINESS, SEE? TABOR'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU!

THAT GIRL AGAIN! CAN'T PLACE HER YET, BUT...

HEY! THAT'S NO WAY TO SELL REAL ESTATE, CHUM!

OH, A WISE GUY! OKAY, SUCKER - YOU ASKED FOR IT! WHAT? MUSSED HIM - HE JUMPED FIFTEEN FEET INTO THE AIR!

AH! THESE ANTI-GRAV BOOTS SURE COME IN HANDY!

I HAD A FEELING THAT THIS SET-UP WASN'T WHAT IT WAS CRACKED UP TO BE! NOW I KNOW IT!

OH! TABOR! HELP ME!

RUBBISH DISPOSAL

HEY, THAT'S NO SUCKER! IT'S STAR PIRATE! LUCKY THING I STUCK AROUND. OKAY, SMART GUY, NOW I'LL DEMONSTRATE HOW WE DISPOSE OF THE RUBBISH!

YOUR LITTLE RACKET IS ABOUT UP, TABOR - WHAT! I'M FALLING! BLACKY!

BUT...

WE GOT 'EM, TABOR! THE SUCKERS ARE TOO BUSY GAWKING AT THE CITY TO PAY MUCH ATTENTION! D'YOU THINK THIS GAL IS A SPACE-COPPER?

WE'LL FIND THAT OUT LATER! TAKE 'EM TO THE CONTROL ROOM, WHILE I CLOSE THIS DEAL IN A HURRY!

SOON...

STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS - BUY YOUR SHARE IN THIS FLOATING CITY NOW!

HERE'S MY TEN THOUSAND CREDITS!

HEY QUIT SHOVIN'! HERE'S MINE!

AND MINE!

HERE!

OKAY, FOLKS - THE FLOATING CITY'S BEEN BOUGHT! THE SPACE BUS - OPERATED BY A ROBOT PILOT - WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO EARTH SO YOU CAN GET YOUR BELONGINGS. IT'LL WAIT FOR YOU AND BRING YOU BACK HERE!

MINUTES LATER...

HAH! THIS IS THE PERFECT RACKET, EH, TABOR? WE SELL THE SUCKERS SHARES IN THE FLOATING CITY, AND, WHILE THEY GO BACK TO EARTH, WE SHOVE OFF FOR ANOTHER SPOT...

...AND PULL THE SAME PITCH OVER AGAIN - YEAH! BUT ENOUGH GAB! C'MON! WE'VE GOT TO BLOW BEFORE THEY LAND ON EARTH!

LATER ON EARTH...

IT'S A LUCKY THING FOR ME THESE ANTI-GRAV BOOTS LET ME DOWN EASY FROM ANY HEIGHT! AH, THE SPACE-BUS!

I KINDA FIGURED IT WOULD TAKE THE PEOPLE BACK TO THE STARTING PLACE, AND NOT A SOUL ABOUT.

SWITCH OFF ROBOT CONTROL, SET COURSE ON PREVIOUS COORDINATES - AND I'M OFF FOR THE FLOATING CITY!

AS, IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE FLOATING CITY...

TABOR, DID YOU FIND OUT WHO THAT GAL IS YET?

NO! BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES THERE, I'VE MADE THE CITY INVISIBLE

JUST IN CASE ANYONE FOLLOWS, EH? GOOD IDEA BUT THAT GAL - SHE MIGHT HAVE A TRACER ON HER

C'MON! I LEFT GORD TO QUIZ HER WE'LL SEE WHAT HE'S FOUND OUT!

NOT A BUZZ OUT OF HER, TABOR - SHE JUST WON'T TALK!

SHE WON'T, EH? WELL, I HAVE OTHER WAYS. TAKE 'EM OVER TO THAT DEHYDRA CHAMBER!

MEANWHILE...

HMM... THEY SURE HIGH-TAILED IT FAST. CAN'T SEE A THING.. WAIT! THE RADAR-SCREEN — REGISTERING SOMETHING DEAD AHEAD...

AS...

CHEATS! SWINDLERS! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE ME TALK - NEVER!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, SIS. FIRST WE'LL DEHYDRATE THIS OVER STUFFED BLIMP, JUST TO SHOW YOU WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

WELL, ONE CHANCE TO SEE IF THE RADAR'S TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT. THERE, FULL SPEED AHEAD! ROLKO-CHUTE ON, HATCH OPEN...

NICE SHOT! NOW, I'LL JUST DROP DOWN AND PAY THE BOYS A LITTLE VISIT!

WHILE...

OKAY, SHOVE HIM IN AND - WHAT!!

SOMETHING HIT US! THAT WALL - BULGING! LOOK!

MAYBE THOSE SUCKERS HAVE COME BACK! I - TABOR! HELP!

GREAT ZEUS! AN ARM COMING THROUGH SOLID WALL - HERE, I'LL HELP YOU.

LOOK OUT, TABOR! THE WHOLE WALL'S GIVING WAY!

AND SUDDENLY...

STAR PIRATE! HE'S COMIN' RIGHT OUT OF THE WALL!

YES, AND I'M BLASTING THE CONTROLS OF THIS GADGET!

INSTANTLY, THE WHOLE CITY TILTS VIOLENTLY...

OKAY, BLACKY! TAKE THE GIRL OUTSIDE. THESE CROOKS MUST HAVE ANOTHER SPACE SHIP AROUND!

A PLEASURE, STAR ME BOY!

SOON...

OH! SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS STAR PIRATE... YOU 'RE MOST GALLANT, SIR. PLEASE ACCEPT MY NAME AND ADDRESS ON THIS PAPER AS A TOKEN OF THANKS...

AND I'M NOT TO OPENIT UNTIL BLACKY AND I ARE OFF, EH? OKAY, MISS, I'LL DO AS YOU SAY!

LATER...

HEH, HEH! NICE HAUL FOR SOME OF OUR CHARITIES, EH, STAR? HOW ABOUT THE NOTE THE DAME GAVE YOU?

I ALMOST FORGOT! I'LL READ IT — "DEAR BOY: THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW THAT I'M FLURA BENSON, SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF OF THE SPACE POLICE. LUCKY FOR YOU TODAY WAS MY DAY OFF — THE NEXT TIME WE MEET I MAY BE ON DUTY!"

STAR PIRATE APPEARS IN EVERY ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!!

Life on other Worlds

HIGHWAYS AND SKYWAYS OF RHEA, FIFTH MOON OF THE RINGED GIANT, SATURN... BECAUSE OF RHEA'S LIGHT GRAVITY, EASE AND SPEED OF TRANSPORTATION ARE POSSIBLE TO A DEGREE UNATTAINABLE ON ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR SYSTEM! THE REASON FOR THIS IS UNIQUE IN THE ANNALS OF PLANETARY GEOLOGY—RHEA IS A HOLLOW WORLD! PICTURED ABOVE ARE THE SWIFT, INTER-CITY STRATO-COUPES AND THE ATO-JET RUNABOUTS, EACH CAPABLE OF EXCEEDING 1500 MILES PER HOUR!

OF EVEN GREATER USE IN THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE RHEANS ARE THEIR "LEVITATORS!" FROM HOME AND OFFICE TO THEATER OR GAMES ARENA, THE RHEANS ARE CARRIED THROUGH THE AIR BY TWIN JETS OF SAN GAS—AN ODOR-LESS GAS WHOSE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE IS EASILY COLLAPSED TO BE REINTEGRATED AND RELEASED AT WILL. THE RHEANS HAVE ALSO SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF ANTIGRAVITY BUT FIND ITS APPLICATION DANGEROUS DUE TO THE FRAGILITY OF THEIR WORLD!

FOR PERSONAL USE, THE RHEANS PREFER SMALL, ONE-MAN "BEETLES"—THEIR CITIES ARE LACED WITH A WEBWORK OF SLIM, CURVING MONO-RAILS, MORE INTRICATE, YET MORE PERFECT IN DESIGN AND FUNCTIONAL SAFEGUARDS THAN OUR GREATEST RAILROAD SWITCH-YARDS! ELABORATE [redacted] SYSTEMS—ELECTRONIC DETECTION AND SPEED CONTROL DEVICES—MAKE COLLISIONS IMPOSSIBLE. IF NECESSARY, SHOULD A "BEETLE" BE STALLED ON THE RAIL AHEAD, THESE AUTOMATIC SENTINELS WILL BRING A RHEAN TO A SWIFT, BUT GENTLE STOP!

MYSTA

OF THE MOON

By ROSS GALLUN

CARGO X25, CONSIGNED ON SPACE FREIGHTER EROICA FOR MARS CENTRAL DELIVERY, NOT APPROVED FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT! IMPOUND IN ENTIRETY AND REMOVE TO SAFETY COUNCIL LABORATORY FOR ANALYSIS. SCIENTIST LORNE ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE CONTENTS.

BY ORDER OF Garro— DIRECTOR: SAFETY COUNCIL

SOON, IN THE LABORATORY OF SCIENTIST LORNE..

STRANGE! THAT CARGO CRATE IS EMPTY, YET... WAIT! THAT FORM TAKING SHAPE—THESE X36 RAYS ENLARGING IT! MUST TURN THEM OFF!

TOO LATE— GREAT HEAVENS! WHAT AN UNEARTHLY HORROR! QUICK— THE TELAUDIO! I'LL CALL FOR GARRO...

BUT LORNE IS NO MATCH FOR THE DEMON SPEED OF THE MONSTER! A TALONED HAND FLASHES OUT...

A-A-H! I'VE SMASHED THE TELAUDIO!

MEANWHILE IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GARRO...

THERE THAT HYPO HELMET SHOULD REVITALIZE YOUR MEMORY, PILOT 29! NOW WHO SENT THAT CARGO ON THE EROICA?

THAT'S FUNNY — THE CALL SIGNAL FROM THE LAB BLINKED ON — NOW THE TECHNICIAN IS DEAD!

ANY LUCK WITH THE HELMET DIRECTOR GARRO? PERHAPS WE COULD TRY THE PSYCHO-GRAPH

SUPPOSE YOU LET ME DECIDE WHAT WE'LL DO, TECHNICIAN! AS FOR YOUR QUESTIONS — HE REMEMBERS NOTHING! HIS MEMORY IS COMPLETELY BLANKED OUT!

SOMETHING **IS** STRANGE HERE! THAT SIGNAL FROM THE LAB, AND NOW THE PILOT'S MIND DEMENORIZED! AS TECHNICIAN 106, I'M HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING — BUT AS MYSTA, I'D BETTER LOOK AT THAT CARGO — **FAST!**

SOON...

WHAT! THE LAB IS UPSIDE DOWN... ALL THAT STUFF SMASHED!

CONFOUND IT — THAT DAME! NOW WE CAN'T GET THOSE CRATES OUT OF THERE WITHOUT RAISING A FUSS! I'D BETTER TELL THE BOSS ABOUT THIS!

LORNE — SCIENTIST LORNE! WHY, HE JUST SITS THERE LOOKING AT THE WALL! I'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSER.

SCIENTIST LORNE — WHAT'S THE — **GOOS OF SPACE!** HE... HE'S DEAD! WAIT! THAT NOISE IN THE HALL!

WHIPPING OUT HER BLASTER, MYSTA SPINS ABOUT...

DROP THAT GUN, GIRL — DROP IT AND GET BACK AGAINST THE WALL! YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH, BUT IF YOU OBEY ORDERS WE MIGHT NOT BLAST YOU!

LOOK OUT, KARRIN, SHE'S GOING TO SHOOT!

I'M OUTNUMBERED! THEY MUST BE THE SENDERS OF THAT SHIPMENT – BUT WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

GET HER, MEN! SHE MUSTN'T ESCAPE TO WARN ANYONE!

I'LL DUCK BEHIND THAT CRATE AND – OH-N-N – A PARA-BOLT!

AND THE MOON-MAIDEN FALLS TO THE FLOOR PARALYZED, BUT NOT UNCONSCIOUS...

QUICK, MOVY – WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME! FIND THAT LLARN – IT'S GOT TO BE IN HERE SOMEPLACE! AND BE CAREFUL – YOU CAN SEE WHAT IT DID TO THAT SCIENTIST!

RIGHT, CHIEF, WE WON'T TAKE ANY CHANCE WITH THAT WINGED HELLION!

I – I CAN BARELY SEE... A STRANGE EAGLE EMBLEM ON HIS WRISTBAND... LLARN... WINGED...?

BUT, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

THE LLARN MUST HAVE GOTTEN CLEAN AWAY – NO SIGN OF IT! WAIT – HERE COMES KARRIN! WHAT'LL WE DO, CHIEF?

WE CAN'T WASTE ANYMORE TIME LOOKING FOR IT – SNAP IT UP, MEN – BRING THE CRATES TO THE PASSENGER LINER – WE'LL BLAST OFF FOR OUR HIDEOUT!

LATER, AFTER KARRIN AND HIS HENCHMEN HAVE LEFT WITH THE CARGO...

OH-N-N – THE EFFECTS OF THE PARA-BOLT ARE WEARING OFF – I'D BETTER CALL GARRO. WAIT – THAT SNARLING SOUND!

THEN, FROM ITS HIDING PLACE BENEATH THE WRECKAGE...

OHH! THAT TERRIBLE CREATURE – BETWEEN ME AND THE DOOR! WAIT! THIS APPARATUS LOOKS LIKE A RAY – PERHAPS I CAN STOP THAT THING WITH IT!

STOP, STOP—OR I'LL BLAST YOU DOWN TO CINDERS!

I HOPE THIS IS SOME KIND OF FORCE RAY!

SNARLING, CLICKING ITS SAVAGE BEAK, THE LLARN CRASHES THROUGH THE WRECKAGE TOWARD MYSTA... WITH A PRAYER, SHE MOVES THE LEVER...

THERE! AT LEAST SOMETHING'S COMING OUT! NOW IF—WHAT! IT'S—IT'S GROWING!

THE X 36 RADIATIONS BLOATED IT TO GIANT SIZE. I'M LOST... THOSE FACETED EYES... CLOSER—

BUT, AT THAT INSTANT..

YOU WERE RIGHT, DIRECTOR GARRO—THOSE SCREAMS CAME FROM THE LAB!

YES, BUT LOOK! A MONSTER—WITH TECHNICIAN 106 IN ITS GRASP! JUST ONE CHANCE—TO—DUCK YOUR HEAD!

THERE! THAT EXPOSED THE CREATURE'S CHEST—IT'S RELEASING HER...

GOOD SHOT, GARRO—GIVE IT ANOTHER!

WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE, 106? THIS STRANGE MONSTER—AND THE LAB IN RUINS! WHERE IS SCIENTIST LORNE?

DEAD GARRO! THIS THING KILLED HIM—AND IT'S ALL TIED UP SOMEHOW WITH THAT MYSTERIOUS CARGO! SOME MEN STOLE THE...

NO I'D BETTER NOT TELL GARRO ABOUT THE MEN STEALING THE CARGO—HE'D ONLY BLUNDER THINGS UP! LET'S SEE...THE GANG LEADER TOLD HIS MEN TO TAKE THE CRATES TO THE "PASSENGER-LINER"—AND THERE'S ONLY ONE TAKING OFF TODAY! I'LL SCREEN BRON AT MY MOON LAB, AND...

BRON- URGENT THAT YOU CONSTRUCT PORTABLE X 36 RAY, POWER TO DEGREE Z 14, AND CAPABLE OF ABSORBING RADIATION GAMMA ~~RAY~~ RAY! GIVE IT TO ROBOT II— WILL DIRECT HIM BY SUPER- THOUGHT WAVE...

AND SO BRON WORKS LATE INTO THE DARK LUNAR NIGHT. AND, BY MORNING ..

FINISHED AT LAST—AND WHAT A WEIRD INSTRUMENT! I WONDER WHAT MYSTA WANTS IT FOR...

THEN, OUTSIDE THE HIDDEN MOON-LAB...

YOU HAVE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS— PROCEED TO EARTH AND HOVER IN THE STRATOSPHERE UNTIL MYSTA CONTACTS YOU!

PROCEED— EARTH. WAIT FOR MYSTA— CONTACT— CLICK!

SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY THE GRAV-GLOBE RISES IN AN EARTHWARD TRAJECTORY...

I HAVE ALL THE RESPECT IN THE UNIVERSE FOR THE MOON-MAID.. BUT I WISH SHE WERE MORE OF A WOMAN AND LESS OF A ROBIN— HOOD!

MEANWHILE, SPEEDING ABOVE EARTH ON AN INTER-CITY PASSENGER LINER. .

I'VE GOT TRUCKS WAITING AT THE NEW CHICAGO STRATO-PORT — WE'LL BE AT OUR HIDEOUT IN AN HOUR — WITH OUR PRECIOUS CARGO!

YEAH, BUT I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT THAT ESCAPED LLARN— IT MIGHT GIVE THE WHOLE SHOW AWAY! THAT GARRO'S NO DOPE!

MAYBE NOT, BUT BY THE TIME HE GETS AROUND TO DOING ANYTHING, OUR ATTACK WILL BE IN FULL FORCE!

AFTER WE TURN THE LLARNS LOOSE IN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT, WE MOVE IN WITH DIS-GUNS AND CLEAN UP— RIGHT, KARRIN?

RIGHT! THAT'LL GIVE US CASH IN OUR POCKETS— THEN WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH OUR PLANS TO TAKE OVER THE WHOLE CITY!

AND AS THEIR LOW-TONED CONVERSATION DRONES ON, UNNOTICED IS THE CLOAKED FIGURE SILENTLY FINGERING A TINY AMPLIFIER...

SO THAT'S THEIR PLAN! IT MIGHT WORK TOO— THE SIGHT OF THOSE CREATURES WOULD PARALYZE RESISTANCE. ROBOT II — ROBOT II — ARE YOU GETTING MY CALL?

YES— MYSTA! (CLICK!)

GOOD! THEN HERE ARE MY INSTRUCTIONS!

LATER, AFTER THE STRATO-LINER DOCKS AT NEW CHICAGO, KARRIN AND HIS GANG SPEED THE MYSTERIOUS CRATES TOWARD THEIR LAKE-SHORE HIDEOUT, UNAWARE THAT MYSTA FOLLOWS IN AN AUTOMATIC JET-CAR... AND UPON REACHING THEIR ABANDONED WAREHOUSE...

O.K., CHIEF — THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM — ALL ACCOUNTED FOR!

GOOD! NOW STAND ASIDE, I'VE GOT THE X36 RAY TRAINED ON THOSE CRATES — AND NOW WATCH AS I PULL THE ACTIVATING LEVER!

LOOK! THE LLARNS ARE REGAINING THEIR SIZE — LARGER — THEY'RE BREAKING OUT OF THE CRATES! TURN OFF THE RAY, KARRIN!

NO! LARGER YET!

UP — UP FROM THE SUBMICROSCOPIC COSMOS BOUND THE MONSTROUS LLARNS, THEIR BEAKS CLASHING AS THEY RAGE AGAINST THE TRANSPARENT BARRIER!

FROM THE SIZE OF A MICROBE TO THE STATURE OF GIANTS — THE TENSO-DOME TREMBLES AT THE BESTIAL ASSAULT!

HOLD ON, KARRIN. THAT'S BIG ENOUGH! THE DOME WON'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THAT! CUT THE RAY!

YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S OFF! GREAT ZEUS, THAT'S A SIGHT TO TERRIFY OUR VICTIMS!

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...

THAT EMBLEM... NOT AN EAGLE, BUT A VENUTIAN VULTURE WITH LIGHTNING IN ITS GRASP! I SAW IT IN THE LAB, ON KARRIN'S WRIST BAND!

THOSE TERRIBLE SNARLS FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING! I'LL... WHAT! A PARABOLT! JUST MISSED ME!

HEY, IT'S THE SAME DAME WE SAW IN THE LAB — SHE SURE CHASES AFTER TROUBLE! GET HER!

IF I CAN DUCK AROUND THIS CORNER I'LL HAVE A CHANCE OF ESCAPING — WAIT... THOSE FOOTSTEPS BEHIND ME!

WE'VE GOT HER R'VGED IN, MEN! NOW WE'LL-ON-M- MY HAND!

BLASTER'S EXPENDED! WHAT! THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON ME...

I'VE GOT 'ER! TAKE THE BLASTER FROM HER! QUICKLY!

STOP KICKING AROUND SISTER-WE'RE TAKING YOU IN TO SEE KARRIN!

YEAH, HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HER! COME ON!

I HEARD YOU DISCUSSING YOUR PLANS ON THE STRATO-LINER, KARRIN - YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY! BUT TAKE A LOOK AT THE REST OF MY CREW - IN THAT TENSO-DOME BEHIND YOU! LEARNS!

I REDUCED THOSE BEASTS TO INFINITE SMALLNESS AND BROUGHT THEM HERE IN APPARENTLY EMPTY CRATES! NOW THE PROCESS IS REVERSED! THEY ARE HUGE! NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST THEM AS YOU'LL SOON SEE FOR YOURSELF!

I'LL HAVE TO HURRY!

ROBOT II... ROBOT II LAND YOUR GRAV-GLOBE AND ATTACK WARE-HOUSE WALL WITH FINGER-FLAMES... BRING-X36 RAY!

SWIFT MOMENTS LATER...

ALL RIGHT, GO AHEAD AND... NO, WAIT! THAT STRANGE HISSING SOUND...THE WALL-FLAMING WHITE-HOT AND MELTING!

AS OUTSIDE, THE CONCENTRATED ATOMIC TORCHES AT THE FINGERTIPS OF ROBOT II SEAR INTO THE SOLID STONE, DESTROYING ITS ELECTRONIC COHESION WITH A BLAZE OF INFERNAL VIBRATIONS! SOON, A GREAT HOLE GAPES...

AND AS THE FLAMING FRAGMENTS CRASH INWARD...

WATCH OUT! SHE'S BREAKING LOOSE!

COME BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE DEVIL!

ROBOT 11 - QUICKLY, YOUR FINGER-FLAMES — DRIVE BACK THE EVIL ONES!

BRON DID A GOOD JOB ON THIS RAY...NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE HORRIBLE LLARNS!

THAT CURSED ROBOT - BACK, BACK!

THERE! THEY'RE SHRINKING - BUT WAIT! THE RAY BROKE THE TENSO-DOME!

ROBOT 11 - SHIELD US WITH YOUR FINGER-FLAMES, FULL POWER!

THUS PROTECTED, MYSTA WATCHES AS THE LLARNS SURGE THROUGH THE SHATTERED BARRIER, BLIND WITH THE AGONY OF MYSTA'S RAY, AND FALL UPON THE SCREAMING GANG...

THEN SUDDENLY THE LLARNS ARE GONE, BACK TO SMALLNESS, AND ONLY A PUFF OF FOUL SMOKE LINGERS!

THE -X3G RAY FINALLY TOOK EFFECT - BUT THAT WAS CERTAINLY A CLOSE CALL! NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT CONTACT THE PATROL...

LATER, IN GARRO'S OFFICE, AS "TECHNICIAN 106" MAKES HER REPORT...

NOW THE DEVIL DID YOU GET MIXED UP IN THAT MESS? YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED! IT WAS ONLY SHEER LUCK THOSE BEASTY GOT LOOSE AND POLISHED OFF THE GANG.

LEAVE SUCH THINGS TO MEN, WHO CAN HANDLE THEM...FROM NOW ON STICK TO YOUR JOB AND STOP TRYING TO IMITATE THAT PHONY ADVENTURESS, MYSTA OF THE MOON!

MYSTA appears in every issue of PLANET COMICS!

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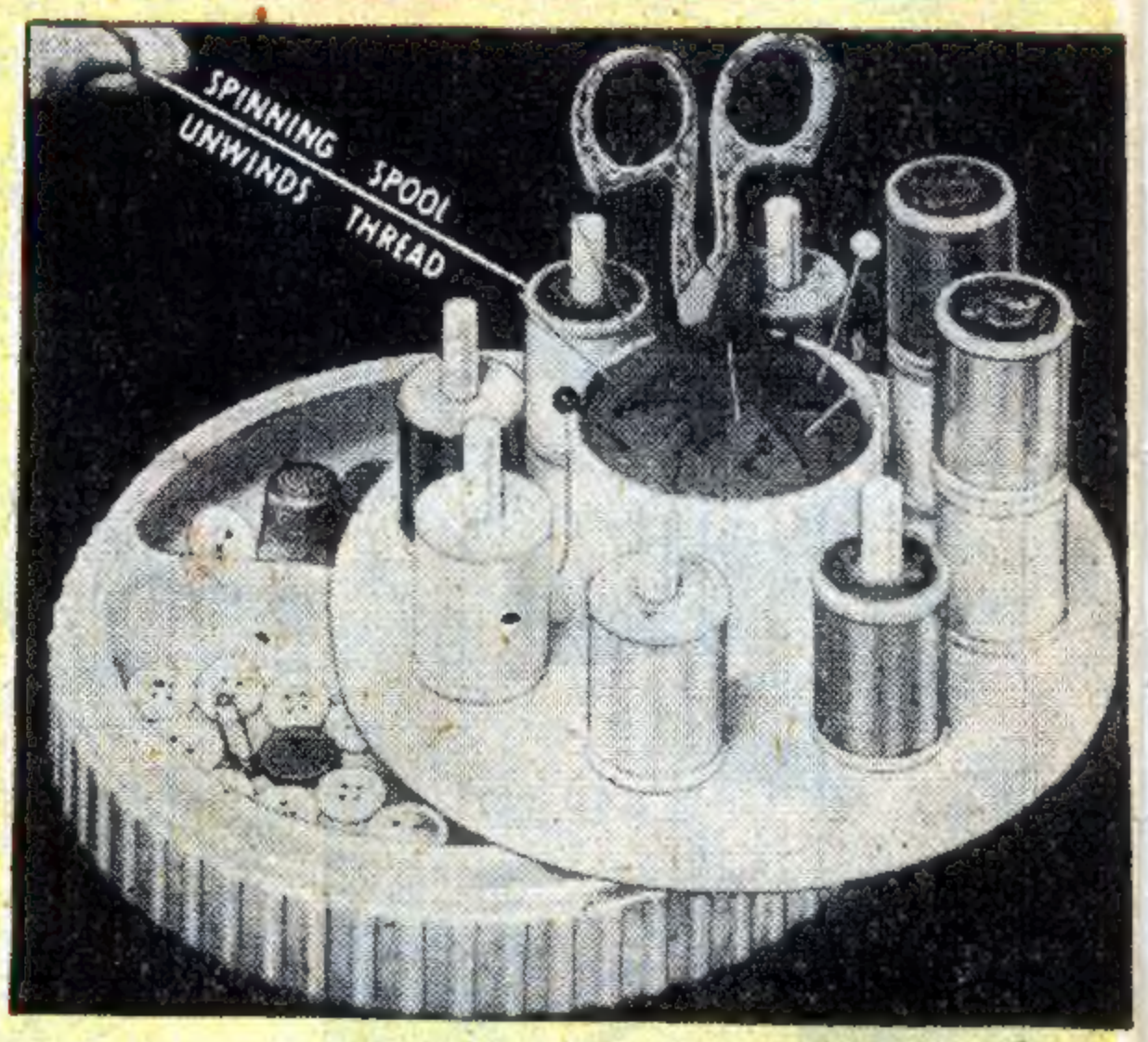

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Put your figure in *style!* Look feminine, curvaceous—*instantly*—with new marvelous TRI-LETTE. It's taken New York by storm ...it's all the rage with smart girls...because it rounds you enticingly in the *right* places with never a bulge in the wrong ones! Lightly but cleverly boned—to pull in your waist, give fullness to hips, lift bust to alluring firm contours. No matter *what* shape bosom you have! Magical, you'll agree...and this one little garment does it all! In luxury rayon satin—with revealing lace inserts at bust, dainty net edging at top and bottom Comfortable! Lastex insert, adjustable hook and-eye back fastening, 4 adjustable garters Bra straps included, adjustable, easy to attach. New TRI-LETTE costs little more then bra alone! We know you'll be thrilled—your money back if not 100% pleased with your glamorous "New Look" figure. A cup, 32 to 36. B cup, (larger) 32 to 38.

BLUE • WHITE • NUDE • BLACK

Have Tiny Waist -Full Bosom FIGURE

$5.95

BLUE • WHITE NUDE • BLACK

Costs so little

MAIL COUPON NOW!

SEND ON 10-DAY APPROVAL

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45 East 17th St., New York

Rush your new TRI-LETTE for $5.95. CUP_____ SIZE_____

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postage. ☐ I enclose $5.95. You pay postage

1st Color Choice	2nd Color Choice

Name_____

Address_____

City, Zone, State_____

I understand if not delighted with TRI-LETTE I can return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

Greatest Value Ever Offered To COMIC Readers!

Beautiful Smooth Grain
ZIPPER BILLFOLD

Smartly Styled Precision
BALL POINT PEN

Handiest Pencil Type
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Monogram Initiated
PLASTIC KEY HOLDER

All for only $1.98

It "Zips" All the Way Around

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MASTERPIECE of BILLFOLD Design and Workmanship

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Pencil-Type METAL POCKET FLASHLIGHT *complete with* 2 BURGESS BATTERIES

This is ACTUAL SIZE

BALL POINT PEN

Newest Features *Precision-tip*

Monogram Initialed KEY HOLDER *Pliable Plastic*

Flashlight has red plastic reflector for use as a warning signal

We GUARANTEE that you can't duplicate this sensational value for less money anywhere in America today!

Here without a doubt is the greatest merchandise bargain you'll be likely to see for years to come. Only our tremendous purchasing power and large volume "direct-to-you" method of distribution makes such a value possible. Shop around and see for yourself. Where else today can you get: *(1) A beautiful Zipper Billfold with Built-in Pass Case and Change Purse. (2) A new type precision made Ball Point Pen. (3) A handy Plastiflex Key Holder monogrammed with your choice initial. (4) A Pencil-Type Pocket Flashlight complete with batteries* . . . . . 4 big Values in ALL for ONE LOW PRICE of $1.98. You might ordinarily expect to pay that price for a billfold or a flashlight, either or both, if bought separately at today's prices.

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